

### REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Reilley for the telephonic interviews conducted with the undersigned on December 5, 2006 and January 11, 2007. During the interview conducted on December 5, 2006, Examiner Reilly indicated that the claims may be allowable if the claims submitted with the after-final response were amended to clarify that the intermediary is associated with a provider of a messaging service and that the screenname (claims 129 and 154) and user-defined identifier (claims 179 and 203) uniquely identify the user within the messaging service of the provider. While Applicant did not believe such amendments (or the amendments made in the after-final response) were necessary, Applicant submitted the foregoing amendments to Examiner Reilly for review. On January 11, 2007, Applicant's representative and Examiner Reilley conducted a telephonic interview, during which Examiner Reilly agreed that the foregoing amendments overcome the current rejections and place the case in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that this case be passed to allowance.

Applicant also notes that, in the after final response, the term "news" was inadvertently replaced with the term "Previously Presented" in claims 135, 142, 160, 167, 185, 192, 209, and 216. However, the terms were not changed using strike-through and underlining and, therefore, Applicant assumes these inadvertent changes were not recorded as amendments in the USPTO. Therefore, in the listing of claims above, Applicant has simply reverted the terms to their original without the use of strikethrough or underlining.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, objection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim

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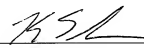
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prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejected claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/12/07

  
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